

# 1 It's easy as 1, 2, 3

## ACADEMIC LESSONS

Academic lessons combine self study with a text book and video or CD-Rom combined with a classroom session conducted by a certified professional.

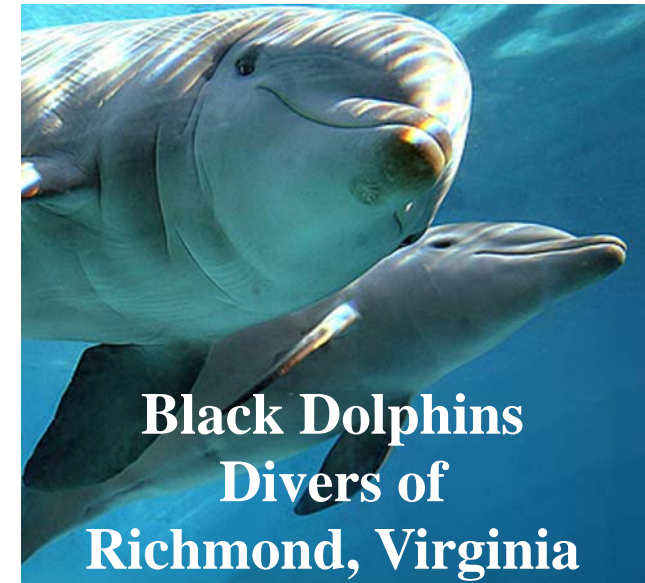
Confined water training dives consist of scuba diving skills developed one at a time safely starting in the shallow end of the pool. Each new skill is demonstrated by a certified professional and then practiced by you with one on one personal supervision. At the end of the confined water dives you will have all of the knowledge and skills needed to plan and conduct safe scuba diving adventures.

# 2 OPEN WATER DIVES

Four open water dives conducted under the supervision of a certified professional complete the process. These dives can be at Lake Rawlings, as part of one of your selected dive trips or, through referral at a certified Scuba resort anywhere in the world.

# 3 AFTER THE CLASS

You will receive a certification card from Professional Association of Diving Instructors (PADI) and you will be able to safely plan and execute dives up to 60 feet deep without the supervision of an instructor. Your certification card will serve to verify your qualification to rent scuba equipment, obtain air fills and book dive charter boat passage. It is highly recommended that you keep your skills up to date and continue your education soon after you complete the open water class.



## Black Dolphins Divers of Richmond, Virginia



Member of the  
Northeast Region of the National  
Association of Black Scuba  
Divers (NABS)



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# BLACK DOLPHIN DIVERS MISSION

The mission of the Black Dolphin Divers (BDD) is to increase awareness of the sport in the African-American Community, to aid its members in developing their diving skills, to sponsor youth aquatic and dive programs and to sponsor trips and educational experiences.



## Why Join A Scuba Diving Club?

Clubs and association are comprised of people with a similar interest joining together to network and share their common experiences.

### How to become a member of the Black Dolphin Divers?

To become a member of The Black Dolphin Divers of Richmond: You must be physically fit, pay club dues, attend monthly meetings; continue education in diving practices, and participate in club sponsored projects.

## FAQs:

### Is learning to dive difficult?

No, it's probably easier than you imagine -- especially if you're already comfortable in the water. PADI's entry-level course consists of pool diving, knowledge development and open water dives. The course is performance based, meaning that you progress as you learn and demonstrate knowledge and skill.

**How long does it take to become a certified scuba diver?** The PADI Open Water Diver course can be split into five or six sessions over as little as three days to a much as six weeks.

**How old do I have to be to become a certified diver?** You must be at least ten years old to receive a Junior Open Water Diver Certification. Ten and 11 year old Junior Open Water Divers must dive with a certified parent, guardian or PADI Professional to a maximum depth of 12 metres/40 feet. 12 to 14 year olds must dive with a certified adult. At age 15, the Junior certification upgrades to a regular Open Water Diver certification.

### Are there any special qualifications or considerations to participate in a scuba class?

No. Generally speaking, anyone in good average health and at least 10 years old can participate. You will, however, complete a medical questionnaire. If anything on the questionnaire indicates a reason to be cautious about diving, you'll need check with a physician to make sure you can dive.

### Do I have to be a great swimmer to be certified as a PADI Open Water Diver?

No. You need to be a reasonably proficient swimmer and comfortable in the water. You must swim 200 metres/200 yards nonstop, without a time or specific stroke requirement or a 300 metre/yard swim with mask, fins and snorkel. You'll also perform a 10 minute tread/float.

**What equipment do I need before I take scuba lessons?** Generally speaking, you'll want to own a mask, snorkel and fins. Your local PADI Dive Center or resort can help you select quality equipment that fits properly (<http://www.padi.com/english/common/search/dc/nr/>). Most scuba equipment is very durable, so you won't have to replace it often.